What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc. View this email in your browser

Newsletter #168:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Hello everyone! I can't believe that we are already starting the Spring sales. The auctions this time of year would have been in full swing but due to Covid we are doing everything virtually. Europe is seeing another round of possible lockdowns which is discouraging. I know our coin friends on the other side of the Atlantic are business as usual but I'm sure this does not help. The sales this coming week are going to be strong so I'll focus on the three big ones that will concern me. Along with the sales there are some exciting events that are taking place via the ANS. See below for more details.

ANA Board of Governors Election 2021 - Candidate Forum (29 April)

There will be a candidate Q&A forum on April 29th at 5 p.m. (Mountain Time). The forum will be held via Zoom with the candidates (among them yours truly) expressing their views and opinions on how the ANA should be steered. I urge anyone that doesn't know about the candidates to attend. Only a small percentage of membership executes their voting rights during the ANA elections. We should change that so please attend if you have time.

Here is a link to register:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_yZA3VypdQ0y0ACDzsltesA

What's New at the American Numismatic Society

Despite having a very busy week with auctions I will be trying to attend as many of these talks as I can for the Roman Provincial Conference. There are so many great speakers whom I respect in the numismatic world. I hope if you have time you will check it out. It is a wonderful advantage of being a member of the ANS to attend these events.

To reiterate: this 3 day conference has a who's who of presenters in the field of numismatics. Presenters such as Andrew Meadows, François de Callataÿ, David Hendin are just a few of the great speakers. To be able to "attend" such an event is truly a great opportunity during this pandemic. If you want to sign up pleased go here:

NNP Symposium (19-21 March)

If you are interested in attending several lectures on coins (U.S., world and ancients) please consider virtually attending the NNP (Newman Numismatic Portal) lecture series. This event has several numismatists and scholars giving one hour lectures on various topics. I will be doing a lecture on navigating the auction market for ancient coins. I can't promise that you will have the time of your life but if you want to learn more about me, what I do and of course auctions then please attend. Here is the link to the website so you can sign up:

https://nnpsymposium.org/

Künker 347-349 (22-26 March)

I wrote in my last newsletter about Künker but it is worth elaborating a bit more since I've had time to go through their catalog thoroughly. I have to applaud Künker on the very interesting collections they have in this upcoming sale. I was first struck at the appearance of the entire Zodiac series under Antoninus Pius. These coins are really phenomenal and scarcely available on the market even as individual pieces. Some of my customers have inquired as to why this series is so important. What makes them so special? Quite frankly by looking at them most probably just see some pretty worn coins. The reason is due to an historic event that happens once every 1,461 years and occurred during the reign of Antoninus Pius. As most know, the western world began its history with Alexandra starting in 331 BC when Alexander the Great conquered the area and the region was renamed in his honor. Alexandra was famous for its Pharos, the great lighthouse, and one of the seven wonders of the world, as well as its library and the temple of Serapis. During Pius' eighth year of reign a wonderful event known as the 'Sothic Cycle' took place which celebrates the Vague (Civil calendar) with the Sothic (Fixed calendar). The coinage is based on Greek astrology and highlights the sun, moon and seven planets that were known to the ancients. Two from the series show the entire Zodiac imagery with the two calendars coinciding which further celebrates the date at which the calendars overlap. Check out lots 180 and later to see the wonderful collection. Estimates are on the conservative side throughout the sale so please keep in mind if you are considering this series.

Another notable collection is the Walter Weise collection. I mentioned in the last newsletter that it was a collection of Seleucid coinage but that is not entirely true. There are also several other types included in Mr. Weise's collection. The collector clearly purchased from some of the top auction houses of the 1980's as pedigrees draw from the likes of M&M Basel, Auctiones and Frank Sternberg. At first blush it might not seem like a worthwhile sale as the estimates are very low but don't be fooled. This is a collection worthy of your attention.

Catalog 348 is the collection of Axel Tesmer with coinage of Brandenburg and Prussia from the beginnings in the 12th century to the start of the Prussian Kingdom in 1701. For those that collect bracteates the catalog starts with an interesting array of this paper thin coinage. Check out lots 2030 or 2032 to see some of the rarer types offered. This is just part one of the Tesmer collection.

Catalog 349 consists of mainly gold coinage from a few different collectors. There are several different countries represented but of course the coinage from Germany is most present.

I hope you will check out the online catalogs if you don't have a paper one and please do get in touch soon if you need representation help. I will be busy the entire week with this auction.

The Roma sale is another exciting auction that will take place next week. Roma had a very successful Fall sale with a gold Brutus aureus selling for over 2 million pounds. It was an exciting auction to witness amid the pandemic woes.

There are 1,145 lots in this two day sale with several compelling coins. I noticed a lot of coins from Olympia, Elis which are not common in large groups. Also notable was lot 75, an early archaic Athens type. As always, electrum coinage is prevalent in this Roma sale. There are some wonderful, high relief types, but also a few uncertain variants that will interest those specialists. Lots 308-329 represent a beautiful group of coins from Parthia and Bactria. This group saw record prices in previous sales when they first started appearing in auctions. Now the prices are markedly more affordable. I urge you to take a look because now is a great time to buy. Day two of the sale features numerous Roman aurei and other compelling world coins.

I will be actively bidding in this sale on the phone and online so please get in touch soon if you have interest.

Heritage Paramount Collection (25-27 March)

Heritage is back with a beautiful collection of ancient and world coins in their so named Paramount Collection. I think the world coins do somersaults over the ancients for this sale but there are special pieces throughout. There are only 67 ancient coins but some of them are extreme rarities and bidding is certain to be fierce. I've noticed some outlandish hammer prices in recent sales and whisperings have told me that it may have to do with some non-U.S. buyers flooding the market. Whatever the case please keep your proverbial paddles down if you tend to get over excited by these sales (you know who you are Sparky.....). I don't want anyone overpaying.

For the world section it will be far more serious of an auction. There are some major pieces being offered and I'm sure it will be extremely exciting.

I will be offering services for the entire Heritage sale so get in touch for more.

Coin of the Week

TROAS. Ilion. Anepigrahic issue. Possibly under Memnon of Rhodes. c. 350-340 BC
AR Reduced Drachm(?), 2.78g (15mm, 12h). Head of Athena to right, wearing crested Attic helmet decorated with palmette / Archaic xoanon of Athena Ilias standing to left on base, with polos on head, holding filleted spear pointing downwards and distaff and spindle, rose to lower left; all within [shallow circular incuse].

References: A. Ellis-Evans, "Memnon and Mentor of Rhodes in the Troad" in NC 178 (2018), Pl. 6, 6 (O1/R1 - same dies); Jameson 2229 (same dies); CNG 99, lot 195 (same); Hirsch 258, lot 2208 (same obv. die); Gorny & Mosch 108, lot 1234.

Grade: Area of wear on reverse. Overall light porosity. Extremely Rare, one of seven known examples (of the other six, four are in private hands, one in the ANS [no. 1951.191.20 - the Jameson piece] and one in Berlin [18262099]). Of the known examples this one is in the best condition. VF+

Price: $5,500

gk1499

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The nature of anepigraphic issues creates uncertainty on minting location, dating and even under whose authority a coin was struck. An insightful article by Aneurin Ellis-Evans in the NC 178 (2108), sheds some light on this particular issue. Ellis-Evans suggests that based on the lack of identifying ethnic and the shared use of Athena Ilias as a patron goddess, could imply a “civic expression of shared identity” and a way to “unify cities from all parts of the Troad”. Explaining further, this likely means that the type was an early issue, perhaps among the first with ethnic intended to support member cities of the Koinon.

military leaders under the rebel Persian Satrap Artabazus. The rose on the lower left reverse is likely a symbol linking Memnon to this coin.

The statue of Athena Ilias on the reverse further strengthens the link to Troas. The Persians sacrificed at the sanctuary as far back as Xerxes in 480 BC. Ellis-Evans describes how according to Diodorus even Alexander the Great, while visiting the sanctuary in 334 and within steps of the sanctuary noticed a toppled statue of the former Persian leader Ariobarzanes. Apparently the Illians had toppled the status in advance of Alexander's visit. This showed the value the sanctuary had to the Persians, as well as to the people and their desire to welcome the incoming ruler.

Of note, Athena holds a distaff and spindle. This symbolizes the "thread of life" that Athena held over every mortal.

https://www.shannaschmidt.com/greek-coins/troas-ilion-anepigrahic-issue-possibly-under-memnon-of-rhodes-c-350-340-bc?rq=gk1499

If you are interested in this coin please click the link above or email me at shanna@shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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